

Kayra

Kayra or **Kaira**, (Old Turkic: 𐰆𐰣𐰇𐰏) is creator god in Turkic mythology. He is the god who planted the tree of life called *Ulukayın*.^[1] He is the supreme god of the Tatars and the Son of the sky deity (Gök Tengri). This son, Kara Han (the black king or ruler of the land - Kara may mean land, earth or in a sense strong, powerful), left his father's home in the heaven and went to live in the underworld. On occasion, identified as **Kara-Khan** (black king), he was the primordial god and his father was the ancordial god called Tengri.

Kayra	
	Creation
Symbol	<u>God</u>
Personal information	
Parents	<u>Tengri</u>
Siblings	<u>Earth Goddess</u>
Consort	<u>Earth Goddess</u>
Children	<u>Erlik</u> <u>Umay</u> <u>Ülgen</u> <u>Koyash</u> <u>Moon God</u>

Contents

Etymology

God of Creation

See also

References

Bibliography

External links

Etymology

The name of this deity is found in several forms, as is that of his opponent. "Kayra-Khan" may be translated as "merciful king", while the form "Kara Han" signifies "black king". For this reason, authority on Turkic Mythology Deniz Karakurt, considers Kara-Han and Kayra-Han to be two different deities.^[2] Furthermore, the Turkish word *kara* can mean both *black* and *land*, with the result that Kara Han can mean not only 'Black (Dark) Ruler' but also 'Ruler of the Land'.

God of Creation

In ancient Turkic belief, Tangri (God) Kara Han is neither male nor female nor even human in form, but a pure-white goose that flies constantly over an endless expanse of water (time), the benign creator of all that is, including the other, lesser gods. Among all Altaic Tartars the dualistic division is most clear (Ulgen and Erlik), and the highest god, Tengre Kaira Khan, is a good power. But before Ak Ana appears to urge it to create, Kara-han becomes anxious, creation occurring in a context of loneliness, turmoil and fear: the water becomes turbulent, but it reassures itself that it "need not fear" (the implication of such self-reassurance being that it is indeed afraid). Supreme being in the universe it created, Kara-han is the ruler of the three realms of air, water and land, seated on the seventeenth level of the universe, from which it determines the fate of its creation. After creating the universe it planted the nine-boughed tree of life, from the branches of which came the ancestors of humans. Thus emerged the nine races (nine clans). It has three sons: Ulgan, Mergen and Kyzaghan.

A Tuvinian / Soyoth legend, told as follows... The giant turtle which supported the earth moved, which caused the cosmic ocean to begin flooding the earth. An old man who had guessed something like this would happen, built a raft. Boarded it with his family, and he was saved. When the waters receded, the raft was left on a high wooded mountain, where, it is said, it remains today. After the flood Kaira-Khan created everything around the world. Among other things, he taught people how to make Araq (some kind of liquor).

See also

- Bai-Ulgan
- Turul

References

1. "The Tree Of Life In Turkic Communities With Its Current Effects" (<https://ulukayin.org/the-tree-of-life-in-turkic-communities-with-its-current-effects/>). *ULUKAYIN*. 2021-10-03. Archived (<https://web.archive.org/web/20211126033238/https%3A%2F%2Fulukayin.org%2Fthe-tree-of-life-in-turkic-communities-with-its-current-effects%2F>) from the original on 2021-11-26. Retrieved 2021-11-26.
2. Türk Söylence Sözlüğü (Turkic Mythology Dictionary), Deniz Karakurt, ([OTRS: CC BY-SA 3.0](#))

Bibliography

- Türk Mitolojisi, Murat Uraz, [OCLC 245853289](#) (<https://www.worldcat.org/oclc/245853289>)
- Türk Mitolojisi Ansiklopedik Sözlük, Celal Beydili, Yurt Yayınevi (Page-305, Kayrakan)

External links

- Kayra Han (<http://turk-mitolojisi.blogspot.com/2010/08/kara-han-kayra-han.html>)
- Kayra Han (Kara Han) (<http://www.vetarih.com/index.php?view=article&catid=41:turk-mitolojisi&id=55:kayra-han&format=pdf>)
- Türk Mitolojisi Sözlüğü, Pınar Karaca (<http://www.kayipdunya.com/wp-content/uploads/kalins-pdf/singles/turk-mitolojisi-sozlugu-k-l.pdf>) (Kayrakan)

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